

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-14

DRC-01 /188 W

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R 191155Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5220

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: DROUGHT THREAT IN NORTHEAST

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. LOCAL PRESS, IN PARTICULAR "NATION", AND NORTHEAST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HAVE RECENTLY BEEN STRESSING GROWING SERIOUSNESS OF DROUGHT IN NORTHEAST WHICH ALLEGEDLY AFFECTING ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF AREA. EMPHASIS ALSO PLACED ON POTENTIAL OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS FOR CAUSING POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOVERNMENT. UNVERIFIED REPORTS HAVE STATED SEVERAL THOUSAND FARMERS PLANNING TO MARCH ON BANGKOK TO BRING THEIR PLIGHT TO GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION. HM THE KING REPORTEDLY HAS DIRECTED ALL OUT RAIN MAKING EFFORT FOR THE AREA AND MILITARY FORCES ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE MADE ADDITIONAL PLANES AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS BEING MADE TO OBTAIN NEW RICE SEEDLINGS FOR AFFECTED AREA. NESDB OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED OPINION PRIVATELY THAT DROUGHT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS.

2. AGAT OFFICE STATES THAT DROUGHT HAS SEVERLY DAMAGED RICE SEEDLING BEDS AND THAT MOST FIELDS NOT YET PLANTED

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FOR LACK OF RAIN. SHOULD RAIN FALL IN ADEQUATE AMOUNT BY

END OF MONTH THEN SITUATION RETRIEVABLE, PARTICULARLY IF
SEEDLINGS MADE AVAILABLE IN TIME FROM OTHER PARTS OF THAI-
LAND. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: DROUGHT AFFECTED PARTS OF NORTHEAST DURING
GOOD 1973 CROP YEAR, BUT NOT ON MAGNITUDE OF PRESENT.
MOREOVER, THE FREER POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, IN PARTICULAR
THE PRECEDENT ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GROUP
OBJECTIVES THROUGH DIRECT PRESSURE MEASURES, RAISES STRONG
POSSIBILITY FOR PROBLEM BEING ESCALATED, ASSUMING RAIN DOES
NOT FALL. AN AMELIORATING FACTOR IS RECORD OF SERIOUS EFFORTS
(LAND TENURE IN PARTICULAR) ALREADY MADE BY SANYA GOVERNMENT
TO HELP FARMERS.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: DROUGHT THREAT IN NORTHEAST
TAGS: EAGR, TH
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